

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-33. **(Cancelled)**

34. **(New)** A composition comprising:

dead *E. coli* containing therein at least one modified allergen whose amino acid sequence differs from that of a wild-type allergen that occurs in nature such that the modified allergen has a reduced ability to bind to or cross-link IgE as compared with the wild-type allergen; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. **(New)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in foods, venoms, or latex.

36. **(New)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in a food selected from the group consisting of peanuts, milk, eggs, seafood, nuts, dairy products, and fruit.

37. **(New)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is found in nature in bee venom.

38. **(New)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type allergen is Ara h 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), Ara h 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), or Ara h 3 (SEQ ID NO:3).

39. **(New)** The composition of claim 34, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen differs from the sequence of the wild-type allergen by one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions or additions within an IgE binding site of the wild-type peanut allergen.

40. **(New)** The composition of claim 39, wherein the sequence of the modified allergen lacks

a portion of the wild-type allergen sequence, and wherein said portion includes an IgE binding site.

41. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the cytoplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

42. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen is located in the periplasm of the dead *E. coli*.

43. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the modified allergen cannot be detected by antibody binding without disrupting the dead *E. coli*.

44. (New) The composition of claim 34, wherein the composition is formulated for rectal administration.